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By: **Senator Stone**  
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003  
Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Lottery - Prize Winners - Voluntary Assignments**

3 FOR the purpose of enabling certain prize winners of the State lottery to voluntarily  
4 assign prizes that are paid in installments; establishing certain requirements  
5 for assignors and assignees; requiring that assignees be advised by certain  
6 persons regarding the assignment; requiring assignors to provide assignees and  
7 the State Lottery Agency's counsel with certain documents; requiring that  
8 certain notice be given to the State Lottery Agency at a certain time; prohibiting  
9 assignments from including certain payments; discharging the State Lottery  
10 Agency, its officials, and employees, from liability under certain circumstances;  
11 authorizing the State Lottery Agency to establish a certain fee; prohibiting a  
12 court from allowing an assignment under certain circumstances; making the  
13 defense of sovereign immunity inapplicable in a certain legal action; and  
14 generally relating to the State lottery.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article - State Government  
17 Section 9-122  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - State Government**

23 9-122.

24 (a) The regulations of the Agency shall provide for winning tickets to be drawn  
25 at least once a week.

26 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, § 10-113.1 of the  
27 Family Law Article, and § 11-618 of the Criminal Procedure Article, a prize won  
28 under this subtitle is not assignable.

1                   (2)       If the prize winner dies before the prize is paid, the prize may be paid  
2 to the estate of the prize winner.

3                   (3)       Under appropriate court order, a prize won under this subtitle may  
4 be paid to a person other than the winner.

5                   (4)       (I)       THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO RECEIVE PAYMENT UNDER A  
6 PRIZE THAT IS PAID IN INSTALLMENTS OVER TIME BY THE AGENCY MAY BE  
7 VOLUNTARILY ASSIGNED AS A WHOLE OR IN PART, IF THE ASSIGNMENT IS MADE TO  
8 A PERSON DESIGNATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ORDER OF A COURT OF  
9 COMPETENT JURISDICTION IN THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT WHERE THE ASSIGNING  
10 PRIZE WINNER RESIDES OR WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AGENCY IS  
11 LOCATED.

12                   (II)       A COURT MAY ISSUE AN ORDER APPROVING A VOLUNTARY  
13 ASSIGNMENT AND DIRECTING THE AGENCY TO MAKE PRIZE PAYMENTS AS A WHOLE  
14 OR IN PART TO THE ASSIGNEE IF THE COURT FINDS THAT:

15                               1.       THE ASSIGNMENT IS IN WRITING, IS EXECUTED BY THE  
16 ASSIGNOR, AND IS BY ITS TERMS SUBJECT TO THE STATE;

17                               2.       THE ASSIGNOR PROVIDES A SWORN AFFIDAVIT  
18 ATTESTING THAT THE ASSIGNOR IS OF SOUND MIND, IS IN FULL COMMAND OF THE  
19 ASSIGNOR'S FACULTIES, AND IS NOT ACTING UNDER DURESS;

20                               3.       THE ASSIGNOR HAS BEEN ADVISED ABOUT THE  
21 ASSIGNMENT BY AN INDEPENDENT ATTORNEY WHO IS NOT RELATED TO AND NOT  
22 COMPENSATED BY THE ASSIGNEE OR AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSIGNEE;

23                               4.       THE ASSIGNOR HAS RECEIVED INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL  
24 OR TAX ADVICE CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT FROM AN  
25 ATTORNEY OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL WHO IS UNRELATED TO AND IS NOT  
26 COMPENSATED BY THE ASSIGNEE OR AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSIGNEE;

27                               5.       THE ASSIGNOR UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ASSIGNOR WILL  
28 NOT RECEIVE THE PRIZE PAYMENTS OR PARTS OF PAYMENTS DURING THE YEARS  
29 ASSIGNED;

30                               6.       THE ASSIGNOR UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THE AGENCY  
31 AND OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY ARE NOT LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE  
32 FOR MAKING THE ASSIGNED PAYMENTS; AND

33                               7.       THE ASSIGNEE PROVIDES THE ASSIGNOR WITH A  
34 ONE-PAGE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT THAT SETS FORTH IN BOLD TYPE NOT LESS  
35 THAN 14 POINTS IN SIZE THE PAYMENTS BEING ASSIGNED BY AMOUNT AND  
36 PAYMENT DATE, THE PURCHASE PRICE, THE RATE OF DISCOUNT TO PRESENT VALUE  
37 ASSUMING DAILY COMPOUNDING AND FUNDING ON THE CONTRACT DATE, AND ANY  
38 ORIGINATION OR CLOSING FEE THAT WILL BE CHARGED TO THE ASSIGNOR.

1 (III) 1. WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT AND  
2 ANY COURT HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT SHALL BE GIVEN  
3 TO THE AGENCY'S COUNSEL AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE A COURT HEARING.

4 2. THE AGENCY NEED NOT APPEAR IN OR BE NAMED AS  
5 PARTY TO AN ACTION THAT SEEKS JUDICIAL CONFIRMATION OF AN ASSIGNMENT  
6 BUT MAY INTERVENE AS OF RIGHT IN THE ACTION.

7 3. A CERTIFIED COPY OF A COURT ORDER APPROVING A  
8 VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE AGENCY NOT LATER THAN 14  
9 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE.

10 (IV) A VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT MAY NOT INCLUDE OR COVER  
11 PAYMENTS OR PARTS OF PAYMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED IN ACCORDANCE  
12 WITH § 10-113.1 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE AND § 11-618 OF THE CRIMINAL  
13 PROCEDURE ARTICLE.

14 (V) THE AGENCY AND OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY  
15 ARE NOT LIABLE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH AFTER PAYMENT OF AN ASSIGNED PRIZE  
16 IS MADE.

17 (VI) 1. THE AGENCY MAY ESTABLISH A REASONABLE FEE TO  
18 DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH ASSIGNMENTS MADE  
19 UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A PROCESSING FEE IMPOSED BY A PRIVATE  
20 ANNUITY PROVIDER.

21 2. THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE SHALL REFLECT THE DIRECT  
22 AND INDIRECT COSTS OF PROCESSING ASSIGNMENTS.

23 (VII) IF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OR A COURT OF  
24 COMPETENT JURISDICTION ISSUES A DETERMINATION LETTER, REVENUE RULING,  
25 OR OTHER PUBLIC DOCUMENT DECLARING THAT THE VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT OF  
26 PRIZES WILL AFFECT THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF LOTTERY PRIZE  
27 WINNERS WHO DO NOT ASSIGN THEIR PRIZES:

28 1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY SHALL IMMEDIATELY  
29 FILE A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND

30 2. A COURT MAY NOT ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A  
31 VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

32 (c) A licensed agent may pay in cash game prizes of not more than \$5,000.

33 (d) (1) In this subsection, the words "bank" and "guardian" and references to  
34 a "member" of a "minor's family" have the meanings stated in § 13-301 of the Estates  
35 and Trusts Article.

36 (2) If a minor wins a prize of less than \$5,000, the Director may give a  
37 draft, as provided for in rules and regulations of the Agency payable to the order of  
38 the minor, to:

1 (i) an adult member of the minor's family; or

2 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

3 (3) If a minor wins \$5,000 or more, the Director may deposit the prize in  
4 a bank to the credit of 1 of the following, as custodian for the minor:

5 (i) an adult member of the minor's family; or

6 (ii) a guardian of the minor.

7 (4) A custodian under paragraph (3) of this subsection has the same  
8 powers and duties as a custodian under the Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors  
9 Act.

10 (e) On payment of a prize in accordance with this section, the Director is  
11 discharged of all liability.

12 (f) (1) A prize winner shall claim a prize within 182 days after the drawing  
13 in which the prize is won.

14 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Director  
15 shall keep an unclaimed prize:

16 (i) for 182 days after the drawing in which the prize is won, for  
17 payment of the winner; and

18 (ii) then in an unclaimed prize fund for use for other prizes.

19 (3) For a game that the Agency designates as a bonus game or drawing  
20 and that is not a daily or weekly State lottery drawing, the period for claiming a prize  
21 may differ from the period set in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

22 (g) (1) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the laws of the State, and  
23 except for prizes paid for any multistate lottery game, the State and every officer,  
24 department, agency, board, commission, or other unit of State government may not  
25 raise the defense of sovereign immunity in the courts of the State in an action in  
26 contract brought by an annuitant or prize winner that is based on the liability of the  
27 State to pay an annuitant or prize winner the prize that the annuitant is entitled to  
28 receive in accordance with this subtitle and any regulations adopted under this  
29 subtitle.

30 (2) (I) SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO  
31 SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

32 (II) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State may raise  
33 the defense of sovereign immunity to a contract action brought by an annuitant or  
34 prize winner of any multistate lottery game, for any claim that exceeds \$200,000.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
36 effect October 1, 2003.

